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You cannot deprive me of the rights and privileges you have, and expect to keep them forever.

West Bank Celebrates Teachers Day

The General Teachers Coordination Committee which represents pedagogues in the various levels of educational institutions in the occupied territories sponsored a special festival in Jerusalem, December 14, in celebration of Teachers Day. Schools in various cities, towns, refugee camps and villages of the occupied territories held local celebrations.

The main festival, held in the Palestinian Women's Union building in Jerusalem, was attended by a large number of teachers and national figures, in addition to representatives from the local press.

The celebration started with a minute's silence in memory of Palestinian martyrs, followed by a speech by Hanna

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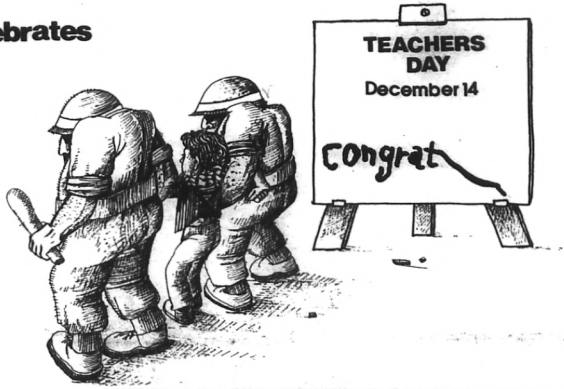

Jewish Agency Plans To Settle 80,000 Israelis In West Bank By 1985

The Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz* published details of an internal report of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency, December 12, revealing that about US $610 million are needed to finance planned settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights between the 1983 and 1987. The paper added that a plan has been forwarded to the government to settle 80,000 Israelis in the West Bank by 1985.

The report added that in the settlements supervised by the settlements department an added 2,800 families would be absorbed in the period up to 1987.

According to *Ha'aretz*, about 450 settler families are expected to be settled in the Gaza Strip by 1987.

"South of Hebron mountain, six settlements are planned and will be based on agriculture through using lands and grazing areas; while in the Golan Heights, the settlement operations will be concentrated on expanding the existing settlements in which 530 families will be absorbed within five years. Besides, an extra seven settlements will be built to absorb 200 families.

"In the Jordan Rift and south of the Dead Sea the settler population has to be doubled, by setting up 10 new settlements, until 1987," the paper wrote.

On the Borders of The Green Line

Under a separate plan of the Settlement Branch about US $ 640 million will be allocated for settlement projects along the so-called Green Line. Under it about 2400 Jewish families will be settled in the existing settlements in this area and another 16 will be built. "These will form a settlement strip along the Green Line in order to prevent illegal seizure of land by Bedouins," *Haaretz* concluded.

One Year After Annexation
Golan Continues Resistance

The French News Agency and the Israeli English language daily *The Jerusalem Post* printed reports this week of continued rejection by the Golan residents of the Israeli annexation law one year after it was rushed through the Israeli Knesset. In a long report by AFP published locally in *Al Shaab* daily December 14, the agency reported on the refusal of the Syrian Druse population in the Golan to accept the *fait accompli*. The news agency quoted residents complaining that the eyes of the world are focused on Lebanon and "we are forgotten."

Mehsan Amash, head of the local Bokatha village council told AFP "We don't want to register ourselves in the Israeli ministry of interior in Jerusalem but we have to travel and obtain licenses to drive our vehicle, to build houses and to work in Israeli factories. Many have had no choice but to apply for Israeli IDs."

Amash complained about the lack of classrooms, paved roads and drains. He told AFP that Israel Koenig, commissioner of the northern district, had promised the community these improvements but has not come through with his promises.

An 18 year old youth was quoted as saying that before annexation, students were able to go to Damascus for higher education. About 60 students used to go annually, "but now it is impossible," he told the news agency.

Family meetings which were allowed for a few hours every month under UN supervision was lost with the Israeli annexation of the Golan. Despite all this, writes the AFP correspondent, the residents have not accepted the facts. Seven residents from Majdal Shams and Massa'da were arrested last week for reportedly being members of a spy network working for Syria.

Over 8,000 Israelis have settled in the 67 by 25 kilometer Heights surrounded by Lebanon from the north, Jordan from the south and Syria from the east.

On December 15, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Golan Heights Druse dignitaries will continue their political struggle against the extension of Israeli law to their villages. *The Post* reported the summary of a communique from the Golan, marking the first anniversary of the Golan Law "We promise to use only legal measures to express their condemning the government's oppresive measures to compel them to hold Israeli identity cards." (Translation: Al Shaab, December 14 1982)

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Joint Committee Agrees To Continue Political Efforts

The Palestinian-Jordanian joint committee ended the two day meeting December 14 in Amman. The Palestinian delegation was headed by Yasir Arafat, PLO chairman, who visited Amman especially for this purpose. Mudar Badran, Jordanian premier, headed the Jordanian delegation.

At the end of the meeting, the following statement was released to the press:

"Understanding the requirements of this present stage of the Palestinian cause, and as a result of the intensive joint Palestinian-Jordanian talks since the Arafat-Hussein meeting on October 9, 1982, the two parties agreed on a joint analysis of a special relation between Jordan and unoccupied Palestine.

"The two sides also agreed on continuing the joint political efforts based on total abidance with Fez Summit resolutions and within joint Arab work which would lead to the mobilization of forces aimed at regaining Arab and Palestinian rights." (Translation: Al Fajr, December 15, 1982)

Nafha Families Protest

The families of the Palestinian prisoners at Nafha prison in the Naqab desert, reported that conditions there are deteriorating. After visits to relatives held at Nafha they said at a Jerusalem press conference that contrary to a recent statement by the prison governor that the commission of the prisons had agreed to improve clothing and food, nothing has happened.

Detainees told their families that recently the prison administration had taken two blankets away from every detainee despite the onset of winter. They also said they had heard complaints that the prisoners suffered from starvation because the quantity of food given them is insufficient.

One of the prisoners reportedly told his family that he had begun collecting the food given to him throughout the day to eat in one meal. He explained that the quantity of food which he receives for each meal "doesn't satisfy his appetite."

(Translation: Al Fajr Hebrew, December 14, 1982)

Teachers Day...

continued from page 1

Musleh, on behalf of the coordination committee, Musleh stressed the teacher's role in raising an educated and responsible generation. Musleh said that it has become impossible to separate the people's struggle to earn their living and get education,

and their yearning for national independence. He also called for greater unity among all sectors of the Palestinian society in order to achieve the national goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state, led by the PLO.

Musleh denounced the Israeli occupation authorities intervention in education and their attempts to undermine it. He also called for confronting military order 854.

Ibrahim Daqqaq, chairman of the Engineers Union read a speech on behalf of the national institutions, in which he congratulated the Palestinian teachers on their day. Daqqaq saluted the Palestinian teachers strike of 1980, which produced the General Teachers Committee, and called for national planning in the education field, in order to achieve progress.

Before closing, a Palestinian folk singer sang some national songs, plaques were awarded during the celebration to veteran teachers and to teachers who were forced out of the profession by the Israeli authorities. (Translation: Al Shaab, December 15, Al Talia, December 16, 1982)

Over 700 teachers from private, government, and UNRWA schools and representatives of the West Bank Teachers Union held a festival-rally, December 14, at the Women's Union hall in Jerusalem on the occasion of the second annual day in solidarity with the Palestinian teachers in the occupied territories.

MUBARAK WAKES UP

by Livia Rokach

"I am for peace," says Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He believes that the Camp David process has exhausted its function. He works for a new peace process which he expects would culminate in an international peace conference similar to Geneva with the participation of the PLO and also possibly the Soviet Union. He considers the PLO "a bridge between Egypt and the Arab world" and remains the major factor capable of leading to the reintegration of Egypt to the Arab camp. Finally he believes that the only foreign occupation troops in Lebanon are represented by the Israeli army and that the rapid withdrawal of Israel's military presence from Lebanon is an essential precondition for any progress towards a Middle East peace.

President Mubarak also believes that while the US should exercise its "special responsibilities" by pressuring Israel into an immediate retreat from Lebanon, the questions relating to the evacuation of Syrian and Palestinian forces from their territory should be negotiated with the Lebanese government and the authorities of Damascus and the PLO. This is what the Egyptian President told US State Secretary George Shultz and Italian policy makers during a hectic six-hour visit to Rome on Monday, December 13, during which he also inaugurated the annual meeting of the International Conference for Agricultural Development.

Secretary of State Shultz refused to offer any comment on his conversation with Mubarak which was defined in an official communique as "frank and constructive," a formula which in diplomatic language means that the evaluation of the parties concerned regarding the issues under discussion don't exactly coincide. It is reported, however, that Shultz outlined to Mubarak the US plan for the withdrawal of "foreign forces" from Lebanon which he affirmed should be worked out in detail by January 19.

In his talks with the Italian President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and presumably with Mubarak, Shultz confirmed that the US government finds unacceptable the Israeli political conditions for a withdrawal from Lebanon – such as direct negotiations between Lebanon and Israel to be held in Beirut and Jerusalem, and the normalisation of relations between the occupier and the occupied country prior to an overall Middle East agreement. The US insists that the negotiations for a withdrawal be carried out through Philip Habib's mission.

Mubarak, however, told Shultz that he expects the US to exercise "severe pressure" including a significant reduction in American military aid for Israel so that a precise calendar for Israeli withdrawal can be established. The first Israeli troops should leave Lebanese territory by January 23, the Egyptian President told the heads of the American diplomacy. On January 23 Mubarak is scheduled to meet with President Reagan in Washington. It was not clear whether his statements contained a vague warning that unless such a calendar is established by then the Egyptian leader might cancel his visit to the US.

A press conference was held immediately after Mubarak's public speech at ICAD in which he harshly condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the world's indifference to the savage attack on Palestinians. At the conference the Egyptian president's political councilor Usama al-Baz, who last week conferred in Beirut with Amin Gemayel and leaders of all Lebanese factions, added details of Egypt's present stance, explained that Egypt expects the US to exercise heavy pressure on Israel. He said that Washington must fully carry out the commitments it has assumed in the agreement which led to the evacuation of the PLO from Beirut including the release of prisoners now detained in Israeli concentration camps.

According to al-Baz the phase leading up to the reopening of a peace process should be: Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian representation for the negotiation; the drafting of a full state government for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip accompanied by the end of Israeli settlement in the area; and the convening of an international conference with the participation of the PLO through the joint delegation. A solution should eventually be reached on the basis of all the proposals today on the agenda such as the Reagan plan, the Fez plan and some elements of the Camp David agreement.

According to Middle East observers here, this was the first time, at least in an international forum, in which the Egyptian President alluded to the possibility of an "exhaustion" of the Camp David process and openly expressed appreciation of the PLO, attributing it a major role in determining the future relations between Egypt and the Arab world. It remains to be seen to what extent Mubarak's position will remain firm in the face of extensive Israeli opposition.

HIGH COURT STOPS HEBRON DEMOLITIONS

Acting on an appeal by the Hebron municipality, the Israeli High Court in Jerusalem issued an order nisi against the head of the West Bank civil administration to stop the demolition of Arab houses in the Hebron market for 45 days, until he explains his reasons behind the action.

The Hebron municipality had asked the High Court in Jerusalem December 10 through lawyer Amnon Shpeer to also demand that the Israeli authorities remove the new buildings that have been constructed in the area by Kiryat Arba settlers.

Part of the appeal reads: "On October 29, 1982, a member of Jews, under the protection of the Israeli army, demolished houses in Hebron using bulldozers. The Zionists and Hebron Law stipulate that the municipality issues licenses to construct and orders to demolish houses."

The municipality stated in its appeal that the head of the civil administration took no decision regarding the procedures of condemning or demolishing houses or filing charges against those who violate the law. However, municipality claimed that the refusal of the civil administration to respond to these actions destroys the authority of the Hebron municipality and its plans for organizing the city and affecting the interests of Hebron residents.

Mustafa Natshe, acting mayor of Hebron, told *Al Fajr* that the municipality will pursue "all legal actions to win the case."

Dheisheh Fenced-in

A fence 300 meters long and four meters high was built this week in front of the Dheisheh refugee camp Girls and Boys schools. The fence was built by the UNRWA under pressure from the Israeli authorities, an UNRWA official in the Hebron area told Al Fajr. Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot published a photo of the fence and reported that the fence was built to stop Palestinian youths throwing stones at Israeli settlers headed for Kiryat Arba and other Israeli settlements in the Bethlehem and Hebron area. A police station across the street from the school is manned by the Israeli border patrol./I.N.

Jenin Area Residents Appeal Land Grab In High Court

Sixty-four residents of Zabadieh, Rabe and Taffit appealed to the Israeli High Court, December 15 against the confiscation of nearly 4,500 dunums of land from the three villages. The confiscation order was issued for "security" purposes, the Israeli authorities claimed.

According to the appeal, Israeli authorities have taken over two strips of land; a four kilometer-long, 200 meter-wide strip stretching from Zabadieh junction to Rabe, and a 2.5 kilometer-long, 200 meter-wide strip stretching from Zabadieh junction to Taffit.

The landowners were not handed written confiscation orders, however. They say that they were summoned to military headquarters in Jenin and verbally informed of the Israeli authorities' decision. The Israeli authorities say that the Israeli authorities first attempted to buy or even lease the land from them, but they all refused.

According to the appeal, which was presented to the Israeli High Court by attorney Felicia Langer, the land confiscation order is illegal because it contradicts existing laws, in addition to violating the terms of the Geneva Convention.

The appeal also refutes the claim that the land was confiscated for military purposes, citing recently published reports of Israeli government plans to set up new settlements in the West Bank, including one in the Jenin area. The landowners argue that their land was taken for the purpose of establishing a settlement on it, which serves the Israeli government's aims of annexing the occupied territories. The appeal also states that there is no link between the land confiscation order and Israeli military requirements.

The applicants are requesting that the High Court give an interim order forbidding the Israeli authorities from working on the land until after the court hears their case. (Translations: from al-Fajr, December 16; Israel radio, News magazine, December 13).

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT BACKS 'PRIVATE' SETTLEMENT COMPANY

by Sami al-Ahmadi

On November 25 Israel's deputy minister of agriculture, Michael Dekel, headed the ceremony to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone in Nofim settlement. Although the Israeli government has suspended and financed, if not, initiated, the over 150 settlements now implanted in the occupied territories, official blessing of Nofim heads it as added politically significant legitimacy.

The settlement is being built by a private Israeli company of the same name for "pure commercial investment" as its owner put it. The company has been encouraged by the Israeli government which is anxious to set up as many settlements as possible, as quickly as possible, in the West Bank and Gaza.

Nofim company is one of several privately owned companies which have been independently planning the construction of settlements in the occupied territories. Some receive quasi-governmental backing through subsidies from the Jewish Agency. One of these companies is Rabadim, which is sponsoring the construction of Elkana 3, Mishh Yeuzhua, and Neiya settlements, the kilometers east of Kafr Qasem and the 1948-ceasefire lines.

This new type of settlement investment has come as a change in the past few months as middle-class Israelis look for livable homes into the West Bank.

Settlements in the occupied territories are usually planned by the Israeli government settlement department branch, its construction, and the settlement department of the World Zionist Organization. Finances are drawn from the budgets of the defense ministry, the ministry of agriculture, and the housing ministry, in addition to other funds collected by the WZO and the Jewish agency. Hence, private-initiated settlements minimize the heavy government involvement.

Nofim company is currently constructing its first settlement of 700 homes near Qalqilia on the western slopes of the Palestinian mountain range. Dan Wyssman, owner of the company, said that his enterprise acquires land from the Israeli government, by special contract. Wyssman, however, refused to reveal what he pays for the land, insisting that "it is a secret."

In order to provide incentive to potential settlers the Israeli government offers low-interest, long-term loans to cover housing costs. The 3-7 percent annual loans are repayable for up to 25 years.

The development companies organize promotional trips for interested buyers to the sites of planned settlements. Settlers can design and build their own homes or buy a house built according to model by the company selling the project. The houses sell for a range of 2.5 million (US $65,000) — way below the cost of a house within the 1948 borders of Israel. While construction costs are only slightly lower in the West Bank, the cost of land is only a fraction of what it would cost to buy in Tel Aviv or Bnei Brak.

Owners of Rabadim company claim that they bought the land from the Palestinian owners. Much of the land, however, is not registered in the name (land registration) and therefore owners have no title for it. During the past few months, there were many documented cases of land sales involving dealers who are forged land ownership documents. In Jerusalem, and Beit Iska southeast of Qalqilia, villagers uncovered several forged land deals and are currently fighting for their land in Israeli courts. Meanwhile, the Israeli companies claim that they will lose out on the land, even if the sale is being contested, for 1000 years.

Amir Sagnali, a photographer and editor at *Modern Housh* magazine, noted after a trip to the settlements" area that much of the land was state land. Sagnali told *Al Fajr* that most house buyers are from middle-class, government and public sector employees. A large portion are young couples simply looking for affordable housing and are drawn to the West Bank by the tempting government loans.

Two weeks ago nearly 500 Peace Now activists staged a demonstration at the site of Nofim settlement to protest the continuing policy of settlement construction in the occupied territories. Arabesh Cohen, an activist of the movement, who also participated in the demonstration said that the Israeli government is now using larger sectors of the non-religious, middle class Israeli public to implement its annexationist policies.

THE DAWN

Publisher: Paul A. Ajlouny
Editor: H. S. Sinions
Hatem al-Ta'an Street
Tel: (02) 28 1035
POB 19315
East Jerusalem

NO PEACE IN THE GOLAN

Residents of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights commemorated, December 14, the first anniversary of the annexation of their land by the Israeli government. Black flags flew, there was a general strike and open meetings to discuss the current situation. The generally peaceful situation was marred when Israeli authorities chose to intervene.

The situation in the Golan Heights was, to a certain extent, calm all through the years of occupation until Israel pushed the Golanis into a corner by passing the annexation law. The residents went on total strike for six months and violent clashes characterized life in the Golan. Attempts to starve them out, through a four month total blockade, failed. The dispute only quietened somewhat after the occupied Syrian residents were promised further study of the laws and no direct interference by the Israelis in their daily life. Israel went to the negotiating table as its tanks were rolling over Lebanon.

Yet, despite the relative calm, Israel moved in this week to try and tighten its grip on the Golanis. Our correspondent, an Palestinian, through our recent history, is that Israel cannot live in peace. Whenever a situation calms down Israel turns the screws, with renewed demands.

Since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, wars were imposed on the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The latest example is Lebanon. There peace had broken out for almost 12 months. Then, Israel invaded.

The Golanis should be assured that as long as they are under Israeli occupation peace and calm will not prevail. Peace needs two willing parties, not one.

The Dawn

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INVITATION FROM A CONGRESSMAN TO.....

by Ghassan Bishara
Washington DC Correspondent

Mustafa Dodeen, who was to arrive in Washington for a quasi-official visit December 4 or 5, has not come because of "illness," Marian Kinsley, press aide to Congressman Schroer, who invited Dodeen, told us that Dodeen's visit has been postponed indefinitely because of the illness, a phrase that suggests to some observers that Dodeen is "politically" rather than "physically" ill.

Dodeen, head of the West Bank Village Leagues Federation, had been invited by James Schroer, a Democrat from New York City's 11th district, while on a visit to Lebanon, Israel and the West Bank. Dodeen's visit to Washington was at a time of tense US-Israeli relations was always controversial. Before the reported illness an Israeli journalist had already told *Al Fajr* that Dodeen's visit may not take place as planned.

. . . . . .

Press aide Kinsley told *Al Fajr* that their guest would be arriving in Washington "with his son and . . . one other person," and that they would be in the US capital for "at least a week and a half." Kinsley said that Dodeen would also be holding a number of meetings with members of Congress and organizations (and) with interested individuals, community leaders," in both Washington and New York. Kinsley added that Dodeen would also be "seeing various government and Congress people."

This, however, contradicted what a State Department spokesperson had told *Al Fajr* and other reporters a few days earlier. When *Al Fajr* pointed this out, Kinsley responded, "I am sure that the spokesperson at any particular moment . . . is reflecting what he knows at that time," he said. He refused that Dodeen would see governmental officials, an assertion which the State Department repeated for a second time.

Mustafa Dodeen in Hebron

A State Department official told *Al Fajr* December 7, that he was aware that Mr. Dodeen had applied for a US visa. Kinsley and Schroer had met Dodeen and was interested in providing "an opportunity to explain his views of the situation on the West Bank. It is valid as audience as possible." Congressman Schroer, Kinsley said, "feels strongly that all viewpoints should be heard." When Schroer's first opposite US contact with the PLO? *Al Fajr* asked. Kinsley said Schroer "does not oppose our government people talking directly to the Palestinian Liberation Organization or its supporters."

. . . . . .

. . . . . was difficult," we can assume that he holds certain opinions about people on the West Bank," said that he has "both friends and enemies." This, Kinsley said, "is of concern to Mr. Dodeen and not to Mr. Schroer."

. . . . . .

Recommendation of the American Women's Delegation to the Middle East

From October 29 to November 10, 1982, we visited Lebanon, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza. We spoke with people representative of the political and religious convictions of the region, including Moslem Arabs and Christians, Muslims, Jews, Palestine Liberation Organization representatives, Israeli government officials, Palestinian villagers, Arab Knesset and Israeli peace movement activists.

Our study tour, sponsored by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign and the Middle East Council of Churches, was undertaken to objectively analyze the issues as opposed to encouraging partisanship. Our interest was to explore the climate for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to see the rights and security of all peoples. Most of those with whom we met appealed to us to ask for United States government action to facilitate a peaceful settlement.

Our concerns are inspired by the hopes and fears we heard expressed.

1) Some of us spoke with Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners released from the Israeli prison camp at Ansar.

. . . . . .

2) We saw extensive destruction caused by the conflicts in Lebanon and we are convinced of the URGENT need for providing housing and services for the hundreds of thousands of homeless Palestinians and Lebanese, especially with the onset of the rainy season.

3) In all countries we visited we heard expressions of fear for the physical safety and well-being of the Palestinians.

4) We found that the presence of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza are an impediment to peace.

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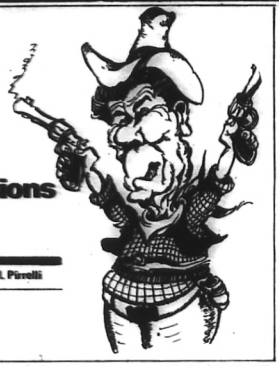
Rashidiyeh Camp, South Lebanon

Facts Found And Conclusions Drawn



Letter from Fred J. Pirelli

[illegible]

— Palestinians are not all terrorists.

— There is diversity exercised by the Palestinian people.

— The Middle East needs more "Sadat" and less "Camp."

— President Reagan's plan is supported by all, but only as a first step towards an independent Palestinian state.

— Israel will not allow America to dictate peace terms to them, and my response was that Israel cannot dictate "War" to America.

— Israel's "Judea, Samaria" actions in the Middle East are not supported by the United States.

— Israel will never relinquish any part of Jerusalem.

— The Palestinians accept UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338 only if they lead to an independent Palestinian state which would come into force after a transition period under Jordanian.

— Chairman Arafat should consider doing the following:

— Tone down his personal appearance and appear more in the manner of other chiefs of state (business suit and no gun).

— Recognize the state of Israel based on UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338 immediately if America will support the following provision:

1) An independent Palestinian state as a finality of negotiations after an interim transition period either under UN trusteeship or Jordanian supervision.

2) Multinational forces be stationed between the parties during the transition period with their withdrawal being done only with the *unanimous* agreement of the parties.

3) America establish a mutual defense treaty with the newly established state of Palestine and the final agreed upon boundaries of the Israeli state.

— America will not perpetually support the subjgation of 1.3 million Palestinians. Further settlements should be met by a *reduction in US aid.*

— The total absorption of 1.3 million Palestinians would destroy the Jewishness of the State of Israel.

Sir, these are my findings. I've made many friends in Jerusalem and I will support my President in his quest for peace. Should Israel persist in the total rejection of the President peace plan, the American people will demand (as they are now doing because of Lebanon) major changes in our relationship. In my opinion, further settlement action and biblical claims fo territory are a grave threat to peace. Israel is a small country whose defense lifeline extends to the United States. Should they persist in their actions against peace they may end up terminating the peace established with Egypt. A strong Egypt aligned with strengthened Arab states could tip the military balance against Israel. In view of present Israeli actions America could never commit troops to Israel. After Vietnam, it will take the unqualified backing of the American people to allow a President to commit troops. At the present time America will not fight for Israel. In closing I should like to thank the wonderful people of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Israelis who allowed me to speak and ask forthright questions.

The Lebanese Chess-Board

by Said al-Ghazaleh

The chess-board is an adequate symbol for what is happening in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular. The main chess pieces, pawns, bishops, knights, castles, king, and queen are moving in an area controlled by a single player according to well-defined principles, tactics, and strategies, and their consequences. The player we consider is the USA, aiming at defeating the liberation movements in the Middle East and annexing third world countries to its group of companies.

Israel in the USA's Middle East game is the most powerful Queen —

Lebanon, after the departure of the revolutionary forces of the PLO, has become the weakest piece on the board. But even when the weakest speaks about the strongest in the age of peace, the message is not without significance. It is significant, the month gone is an important political figure. In Lebanon this has to be Shafiq Wazzan, prime minister. When Wazzan spoke December 5, he had discovered that Israel aims at creating a series of small sectarian mini-states in Lebanon to exploit the religious differences among minorities. Wazzan, intentionally or unintentionally, was being naive, for this aim of Israel's has been stated policy for nearly three decades and crystal-clear since the start of the invasion in June. Wazzan only woke up to the policy after his discovery of the policy of promoting the continual eruption of clashes between the "Druse" (nationalist force) and the Phalangists in the Shouf area.

The game of "divide and rule," of distributing carrots and sticks, of giving with one hand and taking with both, has been practised in Lebanon and Palestine since Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, hatched the conspiracy of dividing Lebanon in 1954.

So then what is the significance of Wazzan's discovery? The talk is nothingness, but as the American song reveals *"Nothing from nothing leaves nothing."* Shakespeare had King Lear say "Nothingness comes from nothingness." Its significance though, is that Wazzan has now joined the Arab chorus led by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who pray in the American temple of reaction "that despite the strategic bond between Israel and USA they have some differences." Wazzan elaborated the differences by saying that the USA supports "the unity of Lebanon." What unity does Wazzan talk about? The fragmentation of Lebanon, the civil war, the Israeli invasion, the departure of the PLO forces, the Phalangists control of Lebanon, the clashes between the Druse and the Phalangists, Sa'ad Haddad's state. The only unity there is the unity forced by US-supplied Israeli tanks, and we all know what they can do in the long term.

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Women's Delegation. . .

An United States citizens, and organizations, of every segment to facilitate a just peace, one greatly desired by the women with whom we spoke. We therefore recommend that our government use the full weight of its negotiating power for:

a) Insure the protection by the Lebanese government of all peoples living within the borders of Lebanon;

b) Insure the withdrawal of foreign occupation forces from Lebanon;

c) Insure that the Israeli government implements a freeze on new settlements as requested by the US government, followed by dismantling of existing Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza;

d) Cease all arms sales to the Middle East, recognizing that these sales increase the potential for violence;

e) Call together a council of nations — including all participants in the conflict — in order to begin negotiations which will result in the creation of an independent Palestinian state, which we believe is the only lasting solution to the conflict in the region.

While we believe in the right of the state of Israel to exist with security, we also believe that the Palestinians have the right to justice and security, and that these rights are interdependent.

November 10, 1982, Joyce Asfour, Carol Berrigan, Theresa Cropper, Sr. Helen Flaherty, S.C., Perdita Huston, E. Virginia Lapham, Sr. Blaise Lupo, M.M., Robin Madrid, Linda Mansour, Janice Murphy, Toni Stuart.

Open-minded

To the editor:

I am interested in reading your publication in order to determine if there are Arabs who do not demand the destruction of Israel and with whom Israel can make peace.

I have an open mind and will be interested in what your paper has to say.

R. Greengard/ Helen

WEEKLY REVIEW

Bethlehem University festival, see December 10/SF

December 8, 1982

ROOMS GO BOOM

TEL AVIV — The interior committee of the Israeli Knesset discussed the issue of houses built without license. The legal advisor to the government said that the problem must be solved by the government and is not the jurisdiction of the courts. Illegally built houses are subject to demolition.

NO MOVE TO ATHENS

ATHENS — A spokesman for the PLO denied reports saying that the PLO intends to transfer its headquarters to the Greek capital.

UK OFFICIAL MEETS BANK HEAD

GAZA — The British Consul General from Jerusalem, Ronald Hamley, met with the head of the Bank of Palestine, Hasham Ata el-Shawwa at his office. A number of issues were discussed concerning the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ISRAELI STRIKE OVER

TEL AVIV — The strike by 400,000 Israeli public service employees and workers announced by the Histadrut ended.

December 9, 1982

BAG BOMB

TEL AVIV — A one kilogram explosive device was discovered near a bus at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv. The device had been placed in a nylon bag.

JAILED FOR MEMBERSHIP

RAMALLAH — The Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Omar Abed Kashour to 20 years imprisonment for membership in the PLO and for receiving military training. Omar is from Dura village, Hebron area. The court also sentenced Mohammed Hasan Talal Kashour from Dura to two and a half years imprisonment for membership.

HOUSE ARREST

NAZARETH — Amir Drori, commander of the northern district, issued an order imposing town restriction on Omar Radwan in the village of Kufr Kanna. The order demanded that Omar report to the police station once daily in Nazareth during the six-month period of the enforced residence order.

CLOSING AN OFFENCE

RAMALLAH — The Israeli military court fined Mohammad Shaker Farhoud IS20,000 for closing his shop on April 13 after the attack on al-Aqsa Mosque. At that time his shop was ordered shut for two months.

December 10, 1982

MASS FESTIVAL

BETHLEHEM — A mass festival was held at Bethlehem University. Around 4000 people from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Triangle and the Galilee attended.

PALESTINE REPLACES ISRAEL

Ma'ariv daily reported a British publishing house which specialises in printing geographical maps, has deleted the word "Israel" from its new Middle East map and replaced it with "Palestine."

The publishing house, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, did so, according to *Ma'ariv*, in order to participate in the Arab book exhibit held recently in Bahrain.

SHARON: US HELP PLO

Yediot Ahronot quoted Israeli Defense Minister Sharon saying that certain elements in the US administration provide vital assistance to the PLO aimed at helping the US president's peace plan succeed.

20 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

LYDDA — The Israeli military court sentenced Ali Musa Abu Ramoz to 20 years imprisonment after he was convicted of having belonged to the Sa'iqa Palestinian organisation, having placed a bomb in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and of attempting to kill an Israeli soldier.

CAPPUCCI DENOUNCES

PARIS — Archbishop Hilarion Cappucci denounced the actions taken against Armenian Archbishop Karekian Kazanjian. In a press conference, the former Jerusalem Archbishop for the Greek Catholic Church called the action "a danger to the future of the holy places and a stark violation of human rights."

December 11, 1982

HIGH COURT REVIEWS EXPROPRIATION

Lawyer Felicia Langer today met with the owners of expropriated land in the villages of Talfit, Zababdeh and Raba.

The land owners gave Ms Langer power of attorney and asked her to apply to the High Court to request the cancellation of the order expropriating their land.

ISRAELI THREAT FOR SIDON

An Israeli spokesman announced that Israel has extended the deadline for government employees to leave their Sidon offices by three days. The Israeli government had informed the Lebanese governor of the Sidon area, Halim Fayaz, to leave the Lebanese government offices and to hand them over to the Israeli military governor.

HADDAD TAXES SOUTH LEBANON RESIDENTS

Sa'ad Haddad's militiamen have informed the official Lebanese authorities in South Lebanon that all public and private institutions will have to pay taxes to them by the beginning of next year. Haddad's militia have recently started collecting taxes on all transactions at the business centres in Sidon and Tyre.

ANOTHER YEAR IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV — A high-ranking officer in the Israeli army stated that Israel is planning to stay in Lebanon for nine months to a year. The head of the planning division in the Israeli army, Yehuda Brak, said that the presence of Israeli soldiers in the Shomi hills and on the Damascus-Beirut highway is strategically necessary for Israel to negotiate.

ISRAELI SOLDIER INJURED IN SHOUF

An Israeli military source stated that an Israeli soldier was injured during a battle between Druse and Christian militias in Aley. Israeli sources also said that Israeli forces stationed in the Beqa'a Valley were subject to light arms fire. No one was injured.

December 12, 1982

GRENADES IN NABATIYA

TEL AVIV — An Israeli army spokesman announced that two Israeli soldiers were wounded after two hand grenades were thrown at an Israeli car north of Nabatiya in Southern Lebanon.

ACCORDING TO THEM

Israeli newspapers said that Israel Defence Minister, Ariel Sharon, encouraged Israeli soldiers to use brutal behaviour in dealing with West Bank demonstrators following up-risings last March.

One witness confirmed this news during a court hearing against seven Israeli soldiers who were previously stationed in Hebron. The commander of the unit received orders from Sharon saying that soldiers should enter Hebron University and rough-up students.

THIEF SOLDIER

TEL AVIV — The Israeli army court sentenced an Israeli soldier to two months imprisonment and three months suspended imprisonment for pilfering from other soldiers.

7 SYRIANS ARRESTED

Israeli security sources confirmed that seven Druze have been arrested. The sources refused to give any details as to the reasons for the arrests which local people denounced.

FIRED FOR . . . ?

JENIN — Israeli authorities dismissed three women teachers from Jenin schools. No reasons were given for their dismissal.

Bethlehem University festival, see December 10/SF

December 13, 1982

BIG PLANS FOR GAZA SETTLEMENTS

TEL AIV — Yuval Neeman, Minister of Education and Development, speaking during a visit to Katif settlement December 13, announced that the Israeli ministerial settlement committee will agree on an Israeli plan in Gaza.

The Israeli minister said that research centres and scientific industries will be erected in Katif. Neeman added that he had reached an agreement with the israeli minister for the establishment of an agricultural centre for environmental study.

The Minister of Tourism discussed with Neeman the idea of establishing a committee to seek out places of archaeological interest which could be used as tourist sites. The minister added that he is also studying the possibility of establishing a settlement city in order to help develop certain aspects of Israeli industry.

The minister said his department will work quickly to finish these projects and will begin the establishment of an urban centre in Katif as in Yamit.

MINE WOUNDS ISRAELI

TEL AVIV — An Israeli military spokesman said an Israeli soldier was wounded in Hasbaya in the eastern area of Lebanon as a result of an explosion when an Israeli military vehicle drove over a mine.

STOP DESTRUCTION ORDER

TEL AVIV — The Israeli High Corut issued an order *nisi* against the Israeli civil administration calling for the halting of the demolition process in Hebron and the stopping of the establishment of houses for settlers in the heart of the city. The court ordered all work to stop until the court gives a final order.

BUT 6,000 IN LEBANON

A report prepared by the civil administration in Gaza said that there are now no prisoners being held under administrative detention. The last administrative detainee in Gaza was released one and a half years ago, it said.

BRIBES CASE

TEL AVIV — An Israeli military court charged Colonel Shalom Montsbi, former military governor of Tulkarm, with bribery and corruption. Israeli papers noted that Montsbi had received gifts and money from Arab citizens in Tulkarm in return for offering his protection to illegal institutions in the town. The indictment sheet included a charge that the former military governor of Tulkarm used an Arab contractor to build him a house at low cost.

SETTLED GOLAN

TEL AVIV — *Ha'aretz* reported that 1000 Israeli settlers have moved to the occupied Golan Heights this year and that the settlement committee there is planning to settle 5000 people every year.

December 14, 1982

MORE MORE MORE . . .

TEL AVIV — Israel's Defence Minister Ariel Sharon renewed Israel's rejection of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and emphasised Israel's intention to continue building settlements in the area though stressing, "Israel does not intend to annex the territories." Speaking at Elon Moreh settlement near Nablus, Sharon claimed that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip strengthen Israel's security. Sharon noted that building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not necessarily mean ignoring the Galilee settlements. He said the Begin government has recently established dozens of settlements there and is currently planning to build more.

BOMB IN TEL AVIV AREA

TEL AVIV — An explosive device went off inside a bus at Herzliya near Tel Aviv. The explosion, which damaged the bus, took place after the passengers left the vehicle.

The Tel Aviv police commander Avraham Turgeman said that the Israeli police department had information that PLO guerrillas are planning to carry out armed operations in the area of Gush Dan in Tel Aviv. He said that the police has exerted all efforts to prevent such operations.

Gaza Strip: More Than Houses...

Bureij camp: Jaber Nabahin, arrested September 22 with brothers Riyad and Ruda, stands in living room. Sister points to living room after December 2 destruction.

(1)
Jabalia: Yusra al-Bor'ai, husband Ahmad arrested July 9, house destroyed October 24.
• • •

(2)
Jabalia camp: Brother of Muhammad al-Ajoureh, house destroyed October 24. No family member under arrest.
• • •

(3)
Jabalia camp: Abu Habal family, Hassan and Jamal arrested August, house destroyed October 24.
• • •

(4)
Bureij camp: Musleh family, son Jaber arrested September 22, house destroyed December 2.

INTERVIEW: Citizen Jacobo Timerman Against The State Of Israel

by Arie Dayan

Jacobo Timerman's book on the war in Lebanon (The Longest War) *will annoy many Israelis. The thin booklet, published this week in the US and England, is a diary written during the war. For the Israeli reader the book will not shed new light. Almost all the evidence brought by the author to back up his claims against the war and against Begin's government has already been brought forth by others; but he adds to the public debate in Israel an original viewpoint of his own.*

Timerman emigrated to Israel from Argentina in 1979 when, under international and Israeli pressure, he was released from prison. "There is an astonishing similarity between Begin and (Juan) Peron," he writes. Begin's populism, his scorn for the opposition, Aridor's economic policies, all these are, in his opinion, an exact copy of the situation in Argentina at the time of Peron's tyrannic regime.

This is Timerman's second book since he came to Israel and in it he sounds frustrated. Timerman says that he does not understand why he is not treated as an Israeli. The claim raised against him, that he has not learned Hebrew, is, in his opinion, just a pretext. He says that he tried to learn Hebrew and did not succeed. Now he will try again, "but not because I am being told that without knowing Hebrew I have no right to criticize, but because I want to talk in Hebrew with my sabra daughter-in-law and my grandchild."

After coming to Israel he was for a while, a member of the Ma'ariv *editorial board and published his articles in that newspaper. After a short while he left ("I'm not interested in dealing with this subject"). Today he is writing a novel in Spanish, in which the hero, an Israeli officer hospitalized in Tel Hashomer, is suffering battle shock since the war in Lebanon.*

The following interview with Timerman was taken in Spanish, in his apartment in Tel Aviv.

Q: Even before your book was published, you told a London newspaper that your life in Israel would be endangered because of the opinions that you express in it.

A: No, this is not what I said. The London *Times* reporter asked me whether I was afraid of violence after publishing of the book. I said that I'm not afraid as I live in Tel Aviv and this is a quiet city in which such things do not happen. I added that I did not know what would happen to me if I lived in other places in the country. If Shimon Peres, who is without doubt one of the top political personalities of Israel, was met with violence twice in Kiryat Shmona, I don't know what could happen to me in such places. I told the reporter that I wouldn't feel so secure in other places in the country.

Q: So it wasn't a public relations trick of slandering the Israelis . . .

A: By all means no. It is natural that a journalist in London would ask me this question. My answer to it was also natural. There is no doubt that there is a certain amount of violence in the country. What they did to Shimon Peres was a terrible thing from any possible point of view.

Haim Guri, a journalist who is well acquainted with the Israeli reality, wrote some time ago in *Yediot Ahronot* that, as a matter of fact, a civil war has been going on in Israel for 30 years. Until now there has been no bloodshed, but it is not sure that this will be the same in the future. Therefore I am not the only one to point at the increasingly violent character of Israeli society.

Q: Which are, in your opinion, the main points in your book which could annoy Israelis?

A: I think that there are no things which must annoy Israeli public opinion. Some people claim that I criticize Israel in my book; but this is not true. My only purpose was to criticize Begin's government and the heads of the army. I don't criticize the army, but its leaders. I don't think that public opinion will react strongly to my book.

Amos Elon called me and said that this

was a marvelous book and that he liked it a lot. Amos is part of public opinion too. Maybe what happened to Yossi Sarid will also happen to me: people say that he must be hanged. But this is not public opinion, these are the opinions of people who are part of the public. Nevertheless, I admit that those who think this way are the majority in the Israeli society.

What annoys the establishment in Israel is that someone who has lived here only three years dares to criticize them and to say that Begin and Sharon are out of their minds. They don't react to what I say, but to the very fact that I am saying these things. That makes a big difference. This is a chauvinist, almost racist phenomenon . . . What really annoys the establishment is that I am using my rights as a citizen of this country. My book is on the whole only 10 percent of what has been written in the Israeli press. It never comes close to the things written by the *Davar* editor after the massacre in Sabra and Shatila; she called on the Israelis to return their identity cards because this is not their identity. I didn't write anything like that . . .

Q: Do you feel that it is in your right to criticize not only the government but also Israeli society and the state of Israel?

A: In my book I basically criticize the Israeli government, its policies and those in the higher ranks of the army. It is true that I deal in a critical way with some central phenomena of Israeli society. One of them is what I call the Israeli discipline. People here are scared to death to hear criticism of certain things. It worries me a lot because it creates the basis for a totalitarian society; I saw it developing in Argentina. The late Professor Talman called this 'totalitarian democracy.'

I am very worried about the existence of consensus which means that there are certain things that shouldn't be said. An example of this is Zeev Schiff's reaction when he received information about the massacre in Beirut. If I hear that people are getting killed, the first thing that I have to do, in every possible way, is to stop the killing. You can't let the killers go on with it.

Q: But this is exactly what Schiff tried to do. He tried to stop the killing by calling Tzipori (Israeli deputy defense minister). Do you thing that calling the BBC would have stopped the massacre?

A: Here we get to the heart of the problem. Tzipori is a loyal member of this government. There was no guarantee that he would take action in order to stop the massacre — we shouldn't be stupid. Zeev Schiff has enough experience to know that if a massacre is carried out in an area controlled by the Israeli army it is endorsed and planned by the army. Turning to a man who is member of the government which has endorsed the massacre cannot be a guarantee that it would be stopped. Here we are not talking about a complex political problem which needs to be debated for a long time. When somebody threatens you with a gun there is only one thing that needs to be done: take the gun from him.

Q: But who could have taken the gun?

A: BBC, United Press, Associated Press . . . One should have acted so that the international press representatives would start phoning Eitan, Sharon and Begin and ask them why they wouldn't stop the massacre. Why didn't Schiff call for a press conference 10 minutes after he found out about the massacre? Why didn't he sit by the phone and make phone calls to 20 people around the world?

These are the results of Israeli discipline. Schiff got a phone call from somebody who had confidence in him, and he called Tzipori because he had confidence in Tzipori, and Tzipori called Shamir because he had confidence in Shamir. In the meanwhile they killed everybody in Sabra and Shatila.

Q: In you book you say several times that Tyre, Sidon and Beirut were completely destroyed. Why do you write this when it is clear that this is not the truth?

A: Tell me, do you really believe that this is a matter of great importance, taking into account the whole picture?

Q: Wouldn't distortions of this kind help those who want to deny the existence of real injustice?

A: No, I don't think so. I visited Tyre and Sidon and I saw what the escort from the army spokesman bureau showed us — the central parts of the cities were completely destroyed. What I saw was enough for me. But let us suppose that only 80 percent of the city was destroyed, or even 40 percent, I hardly care about percentages. This is not a statistical problem. What is important is that we have destroyed there in a horrible way places where people have dwelt. So we didn't destroy them completely, only partially. It makes no difference. Also the fact that the government can use this in order to deny other things does not scare me. Some people in Europe claim that only four million Jews died in the holocaust, and not six million . . . do you want to tell me that this is an important point in the drama which we are living?

Q: In your book you don't much appreciate the anti-war movement in Israel. Why?

A: What you are asking me is very interesting. The editor of the book in the US got the impression that the importance that I attach to the movement opposing the war is much higher than what is reflected by public opinion polls. You see this protest movement as very important, but it didn't change a thing in Israeli society. The dissidency in Israel is only at its very beginning. 'There Is A limit,' 'Soldiers Against Silence' 'Peace Now,' *New Outlook*, — all these do not change society and do not create — for the time being — and political fact. It will still take them a lot of time.

Q: Do you expect anything from the conclusions of the inquiry commission?

A: I want to explain why Begin agreed to the formation of this commission. Begin has proved throughout his whole political career that he behaves exactly like Peron: he scorns the opposition because he is convinced that the People support him. Peron used to say that the best thing we have is the People and the opposition can go to hell. And he was always right. Begin doesn't care at all about what the opposition thinks.

Do you know why he agreed to form this commission? Because Benjamin Nathaniahu, the representative in Washington, came back and told him that everything is falling apart, that he and Arens (Israeli ambassador to Washington) cannot anymore face the pressure and that the inquiry commission has to be formed. Only then did he agree. Not Rabbi Schindler, not the street demonstrations, not even the demonstration, of 400,000 (against the war, in Tel Aviv). I can prove that in that demonstration there were no more than a hundred thousand. But this is unimportant. What is important is that Begin could, if he wanted to, bring three times more people a week later.

Concerning the commission's work — there is no doubt that in the meanwhile it is doing good work. In principle, I do not believe in inquiry commissions in Israel. There were other commissions — the Horev commission on the emigration issue, Etzioni on the teachers' issue — and what came out of them? Whatever conclusions the inquiry commission will reach, I believe that they will show another similarity between Begin and Peron. After Peron was empeached, a commission was formed to check into his embezzling state funds. Do you know what the Peronists shouted in the streets? 'Whore or thief — we still love Peron.'

Q: Are we so similar to Peron's Argentina?

A: Israel under Begin's regime is identical to Peron's Argentina in two ways: politically and economically. Begin's populism is identical to Peron's populism and Aridor's economic policies are quite identical to Martines De-Hoz's (Peron's minister of economy) policies. The monetary situation is the same: the export declines, the import increases, the industrial sector falling apart; the individual is content, everybody thinks of buying a second car. Everything is the same.

In the political domain there are similar phenomena too. What was Peron's electoral platform in 1946? 'We' are good and 'they' are bad; 'we' are patriots and 'they' aren't. He divided the country into 'us' and 'them'; that is to say the Peronists and the anti-Peronists. He based his entire political career on this demagogy.

There is another similar aspect when comparing Begin's Israel to Peron's Argentina; the demagogy that succeeded in Argentina also succeeds here. It took Peron six years from the day he came into office to eliminate, for instance, freedom of the press. If you compare the first Begin government to the second, you will find similarities between Begin and Peron. Little by little we are advancing towards a dictatorship of the majority with a democractic electoral system. This is what Peron did. There were always elections in Argentina.

Q: The war liberated you from the 'what-will-the-*Goyim*- (non-Jews) say' complex?

A: Yes. Not only the war. The war was only a catalyst. Suddenly I understood that our economy is getting destroyed, that our position in the region is being challenged, that our relations with the diaspora are becoming empty of all meaning, that our relations with the world are being ruined. I decided that I have to do my best to prevent the boat from sinking.

Q: Your book arouses more interest abroad than in Israel.

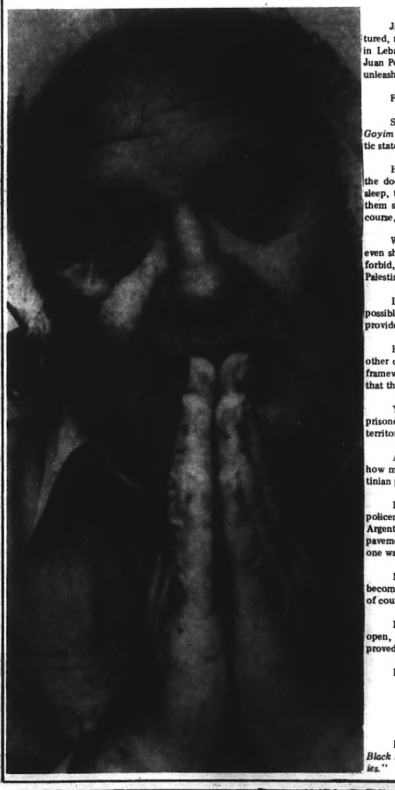
A: This is true and it was the same with my first book. I find it hard to explain this. My previous book was the story of a Jew who faced anti-Semitism in Argentina. It raised interest all over the world; but not here. NBC television (a nationwide US network) is preparing a movie based on my previous book; Liv Ullman will play the role of my wife. The US press is writing about this — but not a word here. Simply, they don't treat me as an Israeli and I have no idea why.

Translated from
Koteret Rashit (Headline)
December 8, 1982

"There is an astonishing similarity between Begin and Peron."

A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY FOR JACOBO TIMERMAN

by P. Sabar



Jacobo Timerman, the journalist who fought against tyranny, who was imprisoned, tortured, released and became a stubborn new immigrant, published abroad a book against the war in Lebanon in which he compares the political regime in Israel to the Argentinian regime of Juan Peron. Israeli journalists turned against him in full anger and Yoel Marcus from *Ha'aretz* unleashed special blows against Timerman.

Friends, let me hold the whip too, I am also angry:

Shame on you, Jacobo Timerman, shame on you for slandering our country amongst the *Goyim* (non-Jews). How did you dare compare the regime existing today in our most democratic state to the disgraceful regime of that Argentinian tyrant Juan Peron?

Have you ever heard here of military policemen knocking in the middle of the night at the doors of people known for their dissident political opinions, dragging them out of their sleep, taking them in their pyjamas to a military camp and interrogating them, while keeping them standing for hours and hours? No, such things would never happen here; provided, of course, that these people are not Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Would armed policemen in our country break into a girls' school, throw gas grenades and even shoot (in the air, of course) to disperse demonstrations of 15 and 16-year-old girls? God forbid, such terrible things would never happen here; provided, of course, that the girls are not Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In our country a journalist can criticize the government and the regime in the sharpest possible way and his newspaper will never get closed down, nor would a hair fall from his head; provided, of course, that the journalist is not a Palestinian from the occupied territories.

Have we ever forbidden the free activity of trade unions or of trading agencies or of any other corporations? Is it forbidden to members of the free professions to meet together in the framework of cultural clubs? We have no such absurd interdictions here; provided of course, that those who meet or organise are not Palestinians from the occupied territories.

You can search in vain for any political prisoners in our prisons. There aren't political prisoners here; provided, of course, that these prisoners are not Palestinians from the occupied territories.

And you know yourself, Jacobo Timerman, how limitless is our freedom of speech and how much our political parties enjoy this freedom; provided, of course, that these are not Palestinian parties from the occupied territories.

It is true that sometimes our police would use violence against demonstrators, when the policemen would get overheated; but can you compare this behaviour to the brutality of the Argentinian police which dispersed demonstrators by using real bullets and cast corpses on the pavement? Was one single demonstrator ever killed by the bullets of our security forces? No one was killed; provided, of course, that one was not a Palestinian from the occupied territories.

Nor would we exile a people from their homeland, not even when their political activities become a bother to the regime. Here every person has an equal right to a homeland; provided, of course, that the person is not a Palestinian from the occupied territories.

In short, Jacobo Timerman, we are not some dark Argentina of Juan Peron. We are an open, enlightened, progressive and law-abiding country. Come back to us now and it will be proved to you.

Proved, provided, of course, that you are not a Palestinian from the occupied territories.

Translated from
Al-Hamishmar
December 2, 1982

Dear reader: *when reading P. Sabra's article, please add "and if you are not a Jewish Black Panther" after every "provided that you are not a Palestinian from the occupied territories."*

TRADITIONAL LOCAL INDUSTRY:
NABLUS OLIVE OIL SOAP

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Ask a foreigner what product Nablus is famous for and the answer, most likely, would be Bassam Shaka'a. For West Bankers, however, the city is known for its *knaffi* — a cheese sweet — and its distinctive olive oil soap.

Nablus soap is perhaps the most widely-used soap in the West Bank and has been manufactured in Nablus since the beginning of the century. Many of the manufacturing techniques still used date from the same period. Although no modernization has been introduced to the Nablus soap industry, it continues to thrive and to maintain popularity among Palestinians here and in Jordan as well.

A large old-style stone building constructed in 1910 by the Shaka'a family, houses one of the main Nablus soap plants. Entering through an arch-shaped entrance, one faces a giant vat, three meters wide and four meters deep. This vat, made of old concrete, "is just like a cooking pan," said Maher Shaka'a, one of the owners of the family business.

All of the materials needed for making soap — olive oil, soda and water — are poured into the dish at the very beginning of the manufacturing process. Nearby stand dozens of barrels of olive oil, the "magic ingredient" which distinguishes Nablus soap from Israeli or foreign-made soap. A constant blaze is maintained under the mixture. Downstairs, through a barely visible narrow opening and into a deep and dark "dungeon," an elderly worker pushes *jift*, the dried olive pulp left in the press after oil extraction, into a hole just under the saucer to keep the fire burning.

The worker explains that he must feed the fire intermittently for at least seven days until the material is pronounced ready. During the cooking period, other workers add water and salt whenever the boiling mixture rises to the top of the dish. The mixture is stirred constantly with four-meter wooden poles. "This slow heating and boiling takes away the bad smell of the materials," the workers told *Al Fajr*.

To judge when the mix is ready for the next stage calls for experience. Being practical, the workers who know the job, taste it! Only when the soap-taster gives the OK can the next stage of work start. The fire is left to burn down, the boiling material settles, allowing all dirt and excess water to drift to the bottom of the dish.

The soap mix is skimmed off the top into iron buckets and taken to the second floor of the building by the 20 workers employed in the factory. The soap is then poured on the floor and spread over an area approximately 25 metres square. After being left to cool and solidify, the soap is cut with special sharp knives into hand-sized cubes. Before wrapping, the blocks are stacked with space between each piece "to let the air come through and dry out the cakes completely," explained a long-time worker. The blocks are then wrapped, packed and shipped to the market.

This manual process has been used for more than 100 years in Nablus where there are four factories. Efforts to find modern machines to make the soap have been fruitless. Although the owners of the soap industry are satisfied with the final product, they are not happy with the manufacturing process.

Khaled Shaka'a, one of the owners, told *Al Fajr* that they searched in Europe for modern machines but could not find any which could produce soap with olive oil. "And without olive oil our soap would lose its character and no one would use it," he said.

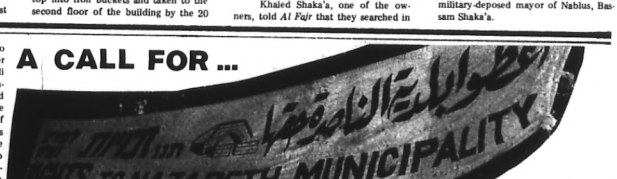
Olive oil soap — highly prized throughout the world for centuries as a beauty aid — is expensive as well as difficult to find in Western countries except at cosmetic stores. In the Middle East it is respected as a practical, inexpensive soap that is mild enough for an infant's first bath and with no strong perfumes which make it favoured for kitchen use. Its hardy character and cubed-shape ensure that it lasts twice as long as ordinary soap. Nablus soap is also the perfect gift to elicit nostalgia from a Palestinian living abroad.

Markets

As a whole, the soap industry is almost unaffected by the Israeli occupation, other than suffering new taxes which siphon off part of the profits. This happy circumstance is largely due to the fact that two-thirds of the product is exported to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The remaining third, amounting to 20 tons per week, are sold locally in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Before 1948," said Khaled Shaka'a, "Egypt was the main market of soap products." As for competition with Israeli soap industrialists, Shaka'a said, "it simply doesn't exist."

The Israeli military authorities have frequently banned the soap trade by refusing to issue export permits to certain factories. "The ban would often last a few weeks or a month," he said, charging that this act is politically motivated to pressure his brother, the military-deposed mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka'a.

A CALL FOR ...



by Fayez Abbas
Al Fajr (Hebrew)

Nazareth municipality appealed to the High Court of Justice on November 10 for an order *nisi* against the Israeli interior ministry demanding an explanation for turning down their proposed budget of the '82-'83 fiscal year. The order also demands an explanation of the northern district commissioner's refusal to reply to the appeal which the muncipality presented more than two months ago. The order *nisi* also demands a ministerial explanation for the continued discrimination against the municipal budgets.

The appeal was made through lawyer Moshe Ammar. Tawfik Zayyad, Nazareth mayor, gave an explanation of the motives of the appeal through the legal advisor of the municipality.

In the second Hebrew edition of *Al Fajr* it was reported that Nazareth municipality presented an appeal against the approval of the budgets on behalf of the interior ministry, but the northern district commissioner in the interior ministry has not responded to the appeal although two months have passed. The appellant is demanding that the court order the representatives of the town to carry out an investigation with the municipality representatives.

In the appeal, the appellant claims that Nazareth has been neglected for a long period now and faces discrimination by the interior ministry. This is clearly reflected in the approval of the budgets. This policy of discrimination by the interior ministry towards Nazareth municipality is proved through making a comparison with other local authorities, whose size of population is less or similar to that of the Nazareth population.

Table of Comparison: Municipal Incomes in 1000s of Shekels

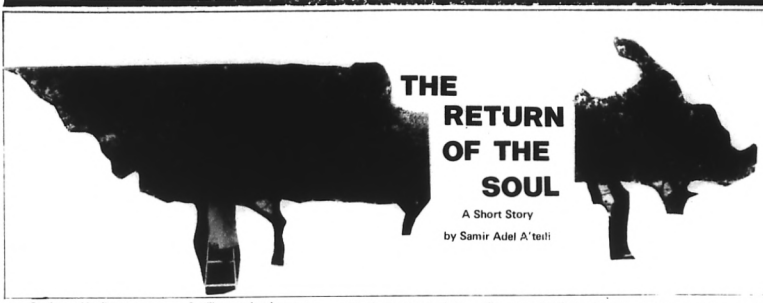
City	Population 1000's 1980	Final income budget 79/80	Independent incomes	Local taxes (education, culture)	General grant	Government grants (education culture)	Percapita income (Shekels)	
Nazareth	41.2	13.562	3.456	1.422	4.433	4.250	110	336
Upper Nazareth	22.6	14.270	3.878	1.146	6.752	2.493	315	667
Kfar Saba	39.5	26.722	7.871	4.204	7.718	6.929	202	701
Lod	38.7	26.780	5.919	2.501	12.672	5.688	323	680
Ramle	41.7	24.994	5.197	2.554	12.000	5.242	269	616
Afula	20.3	21.355	4.552	1.515	9.031	6.247	415	642
Hadera	38.7	28.685	9.539	3.666	9.805	5.675	259	759
Acre	38.7	27.474	6.515	2.428	7.784	10.747	205	725

The appellant stresses the importance of Nazareth as a tourist town. In Nazareth, about 45,000 people are living, and this town has special problems, being an international tourist town. Regarding the topographic structure — the services' costs are very high and the town constitutes a municipal centre for a population of more than 100,000 residents of neighbouring villages who are in need of the services of the town and its institutions.

In order to maintain a proper water and drainage system the municipality needs a lot of money. Therefore the appellant demands that the interior ministry treat Nazareth with official responsibility.

The legal advisor reveals that the budget of Nazareth is much smaller than those of other local authorities whose population is half that of Nazareth and which don't have problems which Nazareth faces. Also the appellant reveals that the governments share of the budgets of Nazareth is the smallest in comparison to other local authorities. The ratio is 1:3 against Nazareth. The appellant will claim in court that the representatives of the interior ministry have been ignoring instructions and have not considered the details of the budgets in essential and practical ways, and that they have been operating arbitrarily and against the law. The appellant complains before the court that the interior ministry continues to discriminate against Nazareth municipality and this policy is contradictory to law.

Nazareth municipality proposed for the '82-83 fiscal year IS372,106,200 but the interior ministry approved only IS157,663,100. This means a 58 percent cut.



THE RETURN OF THE SOUL

A Short Story

by Samir Adel A'teili

On the road leading to our village, I stopped near Jabal al-Assad to contemplate the olive trees which surround the village and cover the mountain tops around it. These trees tell the story of this land since the beginning of human existence and have known and struggled against invasions throughout history. I stopped and recalled childhood memories, how I climbed trees like a monkey, looking for birds' nests. I recalled that the olive trees on the peak and slopes of Jabal al-Assad had given way and had been replaced by a fine growth of nice buildings . . .

I wondered how this had happened so quickly? Buildings, streets and cars, and a few olive trees standing steadfast against the advance of construction, the signs of sadness in evidence on every leaf . . . A seven year absence had transformed this mountain, the mere mention of whose name aroused terror in the hearts of the bravest and most mischievous children of the village, transformed it into a residential neighbourhood! I wondered whether the children of the area remembered anything about "Abu Jamous", the man about whom the villagers used to relate many stories. Some people said he was a religious hermit who had lost his mind; others said that he was a tradesman who lived in the mountains after losing all his money and had gone mad, kidnapping children and eating them. All the villagers said they didn't know when he had come to the village, nor how . . . !

This man, tall in stature, hard-featured, with rebellious hair which had never been submitted to the barber's razor, black flowing beard, was always barefoot, completely unknown and utterly mysterious. When you looked at him, you didn't know whether to love him, or to pity him or to despise him! His appearance often reminded me of a primitive being, or of the pictures of the Cananites which we saw in our history books at school . . . He had faced much scorn and hatred and many myths had been woven around him . . . even when he died he was not treated like other people and was deprived of a burial like other dead, in the village cemetery . . . he lived alone as a stranger; he died a stranger and was buried alone.

I still remember how we used to throw stones at him; we were expert at hatching up plots to annoy him. Once we pelted him with stones when he was sitting in his cave which he called "The Palace." At first he took no notice of us, but when one of us hit him on the head with a stone, he began to chase us. Another group of us crept into his cave and set fire to his clothes and bedding. He got mad with rage and chased us, until we disappeared into the alleyways of the village. That day I thought he would devour anybody he came across . . .

The attitude of the villagers towards him ranged from pity to encouraging us to harass him and even to taking part in it. Those that pitied him tried verbally to prevent us and persuade us not to chase him. They told us that this man had been rich and had had an orchard near the shore and that one day thieves had attacked him and had murdered his wife and children before his eyes and he had lost his mind. They hadn't killed him so that he would be an example to the rest of the 'fellahin.'

Their words had some effect on us, but this quickly disappeared when others goaded us into baiting him by saying that the man was rich and miserly and had his money hidden in his cave and that he stole the village olives and kidnapped the children, then roasted and ate them. This made us all the more keen to pursue him and pelt him with stones — regarding him as a personal enemy of all us children. One day we saw him walking with bowed head, staring at the ground as if in search of something he had lost. Then he stopped by an olive tree and spoke to it. That day I said to myself: "The mind is beautiful and he without it is woeful" — a madman talking to a tree!

And today I see the olive trees standing alone, dotted here and there. What a strange thing! You have stood firm against the march of civilisation. I wonder what you are waiting for? Perhaps you remember that madman who spent his days in your shade, speaking to you though you didn't answer him? Or perhaps you have taken up with a new friend? Do you know he's dead? Do you know the meaning of death?

What's the secret of this waiting?

Suddenly I saw the trees quiver as though a storm were blowing through them. What is it? Are your branches so saddened? Or are you protesting that I speak of him in this way? My surprise did not last long, for I saw him coming towards me . . . the same rebellious hair and the black flowing beard, the ragged clothes. Was it a new madman come to our village or had Abu Jamous returned? Was it possible for the dead to return? No, I was surely dreaming . . . no, it's real . . . but with my own eyes I saw them piling up the earth on him! I wondered if he would harm me. Would he take revenge on me or had he forgotten everything? Wouldn't it be better for me to run away? "Running away is two-thirds of manliness." I must run away, I was on the point of running when I saw him smile at me, so I hesitated and approached him cautiously, praying for protection against the Devil, wondering whether he was human or a ghost.

His smile became a loud chuckle which made me feel ashamed of myself. Then he said:

"Do you people still believe in ghosts? I'm Abu Jamous, flesh and blood . . . "

"That's impossible. I myself saw them lower you into the grave. They argued over where to bury you. The poor people wanted you to be buried like the other servants of Allah, but the rich insisted that you be buried far from the people in your cave, for you were strange, with no family, no money! That year the olive season was bad and people began saying: "It's because of Abu Jamous . . . he was a good man" and they sacrificed sheep on your grave and distributed the food to the poor to make the next season better! And the za'atar grew in abundance on your grave . . . How did you rise from there? Are you a new messiah?"

"My life has not ended," he said, "but your mukhtars wanted me dead so as to forget what they did. They put me in shackles and stopped my mouth, then put me in a coffin and lowered me; I moved around but nobody noticed me. The olive trees cried for me but nobody payed attention to their tears. I cried and pleaded with you to save me but you didn't hear my pleas. Sadly, the trees understood me, but you, you never did. The za'atar which you see on my grave grew from my sorrow and my veins . . . haven't you tasted it? Haven't you felt the sting of fire in it? Haven't you noticed that it burns more than hot peppers? It was the roots of the za'atar that broke my chains and gave me back my voice."

"Who are you? All that we know about you is that you are . . . "

". . . mad," he interrupted. "I kidnap children and I . . . "

"No," I said.

"That," he said, "is what your mukhtars think, but I am you, all of you, I used to worry about you, while you reviled me. I didn't harbor any resentment against you, because, like me, you are victims, betrayed. I had friends amongst you but they were worried about feeding their children and so were silent . . . "

"They used to say you were rich once and that . . . "

I didn't finish for fear of opening up old wounds and bringing back sorrowful past memories. But I saw him sigh and cast a glance at me, his eyes brimming with tears. As if speaking from another world and releasing pent-up fire from his chest, he said:

"Yes, I once had a plantation by the sea shore. I lived there with my family. We ate by the sweat of our brows, enjoying the goodness of our land and the warmth of our sun. One day the waves tossed up a boat carrying a band of thieves. Just imagine," he continued, uttering a moan whose heat I thought would set the universe on fire, "the waves of our sea, which I used to believe could bring us nothing but good, tossing up such a monster!

"At first I welcomed them because I thought they had lost their way and that they needed my help to reach their port. But they tried to rape my wife and when she resisted, they butchered her. They butchered my children. Imagine, your wife and children massacred and you can't do anything. I could only scream and run. I ran until I reached the camp-site of my brothers and kinfolk and sought help from them. The sheikhs of the tribe held a meeting and accused me of madness and of breaking the norms of the clan. They said to me, 'We advised you to keep away from the shore and you refused, you should have made a pact with the members of the gang. You should have . . . "

Whilst he was talking, we heard gun-fire coming from the far east. He jumped to his feet and began running in the direction of the noise. Then he turned to me and said:

"My lovers are coming and I'm going to the appointment I've been waiting a long time for."

As he ran, an olive tree sprouted in each of his footsteps. As he drew further away from me, he drew nearer the sky, until he encompassed the far horizon . . . and the olive trees continued to multiply . . .

Written in Hebron prison 9, 4, 1980
Translated by Shirley Eber from
Al Fajr Al Adabi, No, 27 November 1982

— Paid Advertisement —

VILLA FOR RENT

A spacious villa in the Bethany area is available for rent. The villa is near the gas station in the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Deis. The building contains six bedrooms, dining room, large sitting room, four bathrooms, central heating, garage, well, large garden and telephone.

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WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The return of Habib to the area

The movements of PLO chief Yasir Arafat in the Arab capitals and the fighting in Lebanon — in Tripoli and the Shouf mountain range — were prominent headlines in Palestinian papers published in Jerusalem this week.

Al Sha'ab *daily gave the news of fighting in Tripoli, Aley and the Shouf its top spot.* Al Quds *newspaper gave very enthusiastic coverage of Arafat's talks in Jordan, while* Al Fajr *daily gave Sharon's plan to settle half a million in the West Bank and Gaza its top spot on December 15.*

Eulogies and mourning notices for the death of Anglican Archbishop Najeeb Qubean, the first Arab Anglican archbishop, appeared in the three Arabic dailies.

Yes to the World

Whenever the US administration hints that it would present a plan or a scheme, talk starts about the bad effects that would come out if this plan is rejected, even if it means taking areas from the occupied land and keeping them in the hands of Israel. Some even remind that there were several occasions in Palestinian history in which such a rejectionist stand was adopted and now it has been revealed that this rejection has bad effects.

Those who are the advocates of the peace document and their supporters, have come out against every "NO" which is raised against any US plan or idea. They started justifying their stand with lessons of the past, with the interest of the people and with the aim of denying Israel any opportunity to benefit.

But those ignore one basic fact: the use of "YES" or "NO" as a question that has its own relative balance. If the criteria were what serves or does not serve the Palestinian question and the national independence of the Palestinian people over their land then there is a very clear justification for the rejection of the Camp David accords and the so-called Reagan plan which its advocates have insisted on not calling a plan.

It was within this framework and criteria that the Palestinians have said their word through their spokesman, the PLO: YES to the UN Resolutions. YES to the independent Palestinian State on the basis of total Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Land since 1967 (on the West Bank and Gaza Strip). They have said "NO" to all plans that also the whole world has rejected through the United Nations and all the other international bodies.

Right that the leadership of the Palestinian movement in 1947 said "NO" to the partition resolution when the whole world said "YES". But this stand should not be taken as an example for the present stands which have been signified with realism especially in the recent years.

Had those who advocate this stand thought deeply on this issue they would have found that it is both the US and Israel that are adopting the rejectionist stand towards justice. But, as has become evident through their stands towards the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan, they only see the world through the US Administration. They do not care if the whole world said "NO" with us to the Reagan initiative because they regard this world as being also rejectionist and insane.

We say, along with the majority of the world, yes to the just peace and yes to the right of self-determination for all the peoples of the region. Those who say no to this stand are Israel and the US. Then for whose benefit are the cards mixed together and for whose benefit are the Palestinians charged with what they are innocent of??

AL TALIA
December 9

Freedom For all

Ever since Voltaire eulogized freedom and asked mercy for those who were persecuted in the name of freedom, many have been using the slogan "defending freedom" as a way to eliminate freedom and misuse it.

Our Arab region has witnessed dozens of military coups. The first slogan issued by each was "defending freedom" and "spreading freedom" among the people. No sooner had new rulers been established in power, then they began suffocating freedom and preventing people from enjoying it. They only enjoy the freedom to silence the people and to restrict the use of both mind and thought. Every coup would curse the one before while the people remained waiting for freedom, suffering from its inavailability, and hearing of it without exercising it. This explains the reason why the Arab peoples' development is frozen and why they have not improved like other peoples in the world.

We in the occupied territories find ourselves facing a fateful era of our cause. We have to face it with national unity, with solid belief, and with positive self-criticism which is necessary to help us reach the right and correct decision. However, we are against personal attacks under the curtain of freedom which is innocent of such ill behaviour. We want freedom to be apart from nonsense and gossip. We want it for all. Without this meaning of freedom, it will remain tied in our Arab homeland while we will keep on counting the hours without any steps forward until at the end we lose the land on which we stand.

AL QUDS
December 12

"rejectionist towards justice"

New York to Mid East

During the voting in the General Assembly on several decisions supporting the rights of the Palestinian nation to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state, no one objected to these decisions except, of course, Israel and the US and one of the American colonies — called Canada — and another country called Costa Rica.

While the European countries abstained, the US came out with its well-known recklessness towards international consensus and the principles of right and justice. Moreover, its envoy stood up to declare that these decisions hamper the peace process in the Middle East. Until this minute, we have not heard any official comment from most of the Arab countries and we do not expect to hear anything. We can confidently bet that the Arabs of America will play, during the next coming two years, the scratched record that says: let's not increase the burden on the American president. The congressional elections that took place recently brought a Congress that supports Israel and challenges President Reagan who has Arab interests at heart. Therefore, we must help Reagan and not be severe on him during the next two years in order to help him as the nominee of the Republican Party in the Presidential elections for the year 1984 ... and ... and.

The stand of the Arab regimes complies with their current nature. They are busy now oppressing their people, chaining freedom, concluding security treaties and hosting foreign bases.

This does not, however, conceal the fact that these regimes are now facing doomed failure which all the weapons of NATO will not prevent. This failure will not take place unless the role of the Arab nations and their patriotic powers increase to break the chains of slavery.

The Middle East arena is expecting a basic and deep change. He who does not believe this change, that an earthquake is possible, is ignorant of history and the power of nations.

AL SHAAB
December 13

Mubarak's Call

At his press conference in Rome, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called for an international conference with PLO participation within a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to solve the Middle East crisis on the basis of the available peace plans — the Reagan Plan, the Fez Summit Plan and some of the points mentioned in the Camp David accords.

The Camp David triumverate, since their signing of the treaty, have claimed that this accord is the sole way to achieve peace in the region. Some parties to the accords even resorted to the agreements whenever a misunderstanding came up to the surface regarding any point. They used to check whether the the Camp David dictionary included this point or that. Whatever was not mentioned was automatically ruled out of question by them.

Now, it seems the events of recent years have taken the Camp David parties back to the spot on which the Middle East was standing on November 1, 1977 — at the threshold of an international peace conference for the achievement of a solution with the participation of the PLO as a party to the dispute.

The question that remains is: will the US support the call of its partner in the dead accords, the president of Egypt, or will it throw all its pressure and weight in the direction of those who have been resorting to the dictionary of Camp David?

AL FAJR
December 15

Tantur's Dr. Nicholl "Obligation To Ease Oppression And Killing"

by Daoud Kuttab

A crowd of about 200 local residents from the West Bank cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah filled the auditorium of the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research at Tantur recently to hear a lecture by Dr. Jiries Khoury on Christian Arab and Muslim dialogue in the Middle Ages and Today. The lecture, which was conducted in Arabic, was followed by addresses by Greek Catholic Archbishop Lutfi Laham, Professor Diab A'louah, a sociologist from Bethlehem University and Ahmad Husseini, a sheikh from Ramallah.

The meeting, part of a year long series of lectures in Arabic by the Ecumenical Institute, highlighted the Institute's concern for what they call "unjamming the existing animosity which is often based on religious feeling."

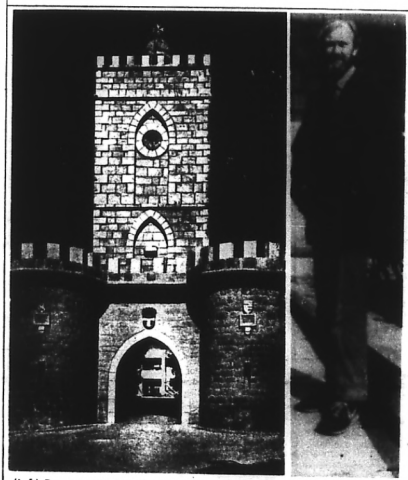
Located on the hills between Jerusalem and Bethelehm, Tantur was established in 1963 as an inter-confessional ecumenical (Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) centre for theological research on guidance by Pope Paul VI after the second Vatican.

Dr. Donald Nicholl, rector of the Theological Institute, is a 60-year-old British professor who has written regularly for religious journals in Britian and the US. He says people in the Holy Land have "stopped listening and started screaming." Dr. Nicholl has been working hard at making Tantur a place were people can come and "express their agonies and even sense of humour, without reservation."

Among the many ways of introducing the local situation to the about 30 post-graduate theologists from all around the world, Dr Nicholl has started a Thursday evening lecture series where prominent persons from the areas can come and share with visiting professors a little bit of their situation and the present conflict. Among recent guests have been Dr. Gabi Baramki, vice-president of Bir Zeit University, the British Consul and Henry Selz, director in Jerusalem for the American Near East Relief Association.

The tall blond rector explains that many of the visiting scholars come to the Holy Land with a pro-Israeli attitude. In an article written for the Christmas issue of *Tablet*, the weekly newspaper of Britain's Catholics, Dr. Nicholl quotes an American friend from California asking *"Who are those people?" after she was received by some of the institute's Arab staff. They are Arabs, I said. "Arabs" she cried in alarm as if to say "Then they are terrorists and we are in danger of being murdered in our beds."*

Dr. Nicholl notes that scholars spending one term at the West Bank Institute simply have to open their eyes and see what is going on around them.



(Left) Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research Tantur on the Bethlehem-Jerusalem road. A centre for inter-denominational Christian scholars to meet and study. (Right) Dr. Donald Nicholl, rector of the Institute.

Dr. Nicholl notes that according to international law Tantur is part of the West Bank and only according to Israeli annexation law is the Institute part of Israel.

Located close to the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road, Tantur visitors can see Bethlehem in one direction and the Israeli settlement of Gilo in the other. "We feel that we are on a knife's edge. Arabs call us pro-Zionist and Jews call us pro-Arab," said Dr. Nicholl.

The six-foot-six British theologian, who has written about the problem in North Ireland says that the 'poor here and there are the real losers.' He feels that intellectuals have an obligation of finding creative and new ways for easing oppression and killing. Dr. Nicholl is very careful to keep in touch with people without offending them. "As soon as you say something that will offend you have lost them and people will not listen to you any more."

Putting this into practise in a long article that was also puplished in *Tablet*, Dr. Nicholl starts out explaining the agony of the Jews and their memory of the holocaust before printing the following convenation that took place between a Jewish woman and a Catholic priest. "The Jewish woman said: 'What do you think of the Pope receiving Yasir Arafat?' Priest: 'Well Arafat is not my favourite person, but I expect the Pope was trying to act as a bridge builder.' Woman: But how can a spiritual leader condone a terrorist?' Priest: 'Well, he received Yitzhak Shamir didn't he, and Shamir was one of the leaders of the Stern gang whose leader tried to do a deal with the Nazis. Most people believe that the Stern gang assassinated Count Bernadotte. And who assassinated Lord Moyne? And we know that Begin blew up the King David Hotel and was responsible for the massacre at Deir Yassin and we know that Arik Sharon was the leader of the 101 squad. It's a funny business trying to sort out when a terrorist ceases to be a terrorist — if ever.' The woman replied: 'Do you know, I never thought that way before.'"

Nicholl believes that the readers of one of the most important Catholic magazines in the world would not have otherwise known about this information and he hopes that by saying it indirectly, he is able to keep the attention of many who would otherwise be turned off.

Christian Embassy

A clear enemy to Dr. Nicholl and his soft spoken approach to the present turmoil, is the International Christian Embassy. The Christian Embassy and its staunch blind support for Israel in the name of Christianity places the world of Tantur in great jeopardy. "By identifying Christianity so clearly with the policies of the present Israeli government, puts us in an impossible situation. If we criticise what it says on a purely theological basis, we are blamed for involvement in Israeli internal politics. On the other hand, we cannot allow these evangelical Christians who come from abroad to hail Begin on the Feast of Tabernacles and who proclaim that resistance to his policies is anti-God."

Dr. Nicholl wrote to the *Maranot*, a US missionary magazine with five million subscribers, about the Christian Embassy. There he wrote that the Christian Embassy has shifted the guilt felt by westerners for the Jewish holocaust and placed it on Arabs.

The Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research at Tantur has a very important role to play in formulating the opinions of Christian scholars around the world. Whether Dr. Nicholl's style of openess, understanding and providing opportunity for dialogue can contribute favourably to the present Israeli-Palestinian crisis, or instead be used by liberal Zionist propaganda which Dr. Nicholl is desperately trying to avoid, has yet to be seen.

Palestinian Appeals Expulsion Order

Wajeeh Saleh Mustafa, a 56-year-old Palestinian from Deir Ballout near Nablus, appealed to the Israeli High Court December 7 against an expulsion order issued against him by the Israeli authorities. Both he and his Venezuelan wife have been held in prison the past two months for refusing to leave the country.

Their lawyer Felicia Langer asked the court for an order *nisi* to force the Nablus military governor to show cause why the expulsion order should not be cancelled, allowing the appellant to remain in his village. Mustafa returned to Deir Ballout in 1975 after spending 17 years in South America. He and his wife, Josephine, have four children, the youngest born in Palestine 20 months ago. Their children had attended government-run schools here, until the expulsion order was issued against the family.

When he arrived back in his village in 1975, Wajeeh applied for permanent residency but this was rejected by the Israeli authorities. His sister's request for family reunion for Wajeeh was also rejected, without explanation. Two years later Wajeeh was summoned by the military government and questioned about his work. The interrogation, which ended without incident, made him conclude that he was not violating any laws by remaining in the West Bank.

On September 5, 1982, he was summoned with his family to Israeli civil administration headquarters in Tulkarm and ordered to leave the West Bank. Upon refusing the order, Wajeeh was detained and his family sent home. Twenty days later, his wife was also arrested.

During the High Court hearing the lawyer explained that the expulsion order against Wajeeh and the refusal to allow him to stay in the country, is arbitrary and constitutes a violation of basic human rights.

70 DEAD IN SHOUF AND TRIPOLI FIGHTING

After three days of tense ceasefire in the Shouf mountains and the Aley region, duels between the Lebanese National Movement forces and Phalangist militiamen broke out on the evening of December 15, after both sides accused each other of violating the terms of the ceasefire agreement. Meanwhile, a ceasefire was arranged in Tripoli, after a week of internal fighting that claimed more than 40 lives.

The fighting in the Shouf mountains and in Tripoli coincided with the arrival to Lebanon of the US Special Envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib. Habib and his assistant Morris Draper arrived in Beirut, December 15, who were said to be carrying a modified plan for "mutual withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon."

The fighting in the Israeli occupied Shouf and Aley mountains broke out last week and continued throughout this week claiming more than 30 casualties, dead and wounded.

On December 12, representatives of the Walid Jumblatt led Socialist Progressive Party and the Phalangist party met in the town of Beit al-Din, 22 kilometers south east of Beirut, in order to arrange a ceasefire. The two parties agreed to dismantle all armed roadblocks, and to take armed elements off the streets.

The fragile ceasefire arrangement prevailed for three days and broke down completely after Phalangist militiamen shelled PSP postions. Tawfiq Barakat, head of the Shouf branch of the PSP accused the Phalangists of renewing their attack after they reinforced their forces. He also charged that the Phalangists draw support from the Israeli army present in the area.

Once the ceasefire broke there were intermittent exchanges of fire all week between the embattled forces. Leaders of the 200,000-strong Druse community charge that the Phalangists want to spread their control over the Shouf and Aley regions.

Aley and other neighbouring towns and villages also witnessed sporadic fighting escalating occasionally to a tense level. Both sides were reported to have used all weapons in their arsenals, including rockets, heavy artillery, and various kinds of automatic weapons.

Tripoli

The death toll after a week long battle between Islamic groups and pro-Syrian forces was put at 40, with more than 130 wounded. Syrian foreign minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam, who arrived in Tripoli, December 15, succeeded in arranging a ceasefire which 36 hours later appeared to be holding. Earlier attempts by local Lebanese leaders failed to achieve any progress in this direction.

The fighting in Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city with a population of 250,000 was said by the Israeli media to be between PLO forces and the Syrian army. PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat announced during his visit to Jordan last week that the PLO was not a party in the fighting. (Translation: local dailies, Jerusalem Post, December, 10-16, 1982)

Haddad Militias Attack Fijian Unifil Unit, 1 Dead

One member of the South Lebanese Israeli-backed "civil guards" was killed and three others injured when the militia group attacked a Fijian UNIFIL checkpost five kilometres east of Tyre, December 10. Timor Goksel, spokesman of UNIFIL, said that the Israeli-backed militia have been carrying out systematic harassment of the UN Interim Forces.

The clash, shortly after noon near the village of Aitte, occurred when two military jeeps carrying armed men tried to cross the Fijian-area checkpost. When the UNIFIL troops ordered the armed men to stop, the militias opened fire on the soldiers who responded in the same manner.

Shortly afterwards, Israeli armoured carriers arrived, ordered the Fijian troops to remain in their position, and evacuated the Lebanese wounded.

The UNIFIL spokesman in Ras Naqura near the Lebanese-Israel border told *Al Fajr* that this was the first serious clash between the UN force and the armed militias, although there were many other incidents where the "civil guards" tried to infiltrate UNIFIL lines which were resolved peacefully.

According to UNIFIL estimates, there are 40 to 50 active militia men in the UN force's zone. They surfaced at the end of June, after the Israeli army invaded South Lebanon. Goksel charged that the Israeli army is fully responsible for their organisation, arming, and training. He said they have tried to end the continuing harassment by the "civil guards" through contacts with the Israeli army, but the Israelis continue to deny that they have authority over these groups.

"Israel's dislike of the presence of UNIFIL in South Lebanon is no secret," said Goksel. He stressed that relations between the UN force and the Israeli army are on an official basis only. Contact is made whenever provocative incidents occur.

COURT PONDERS OWNERSHIP WHILE BULLDOZERS MOVE ON

Preparation to Settle

A survey and road-opening attempt is taking place near the village of Luban al-Sharqieh on the Nablus-Ramallah road. Residents from the village are fearful that the road works indicate official intentions to set up a settlement in the area. In the past few months, they note, the area has been visited several times by groups of settlers. Local residents say that guides have been seen talking to the groups and pointing to the mountains.

In Beni Naim in the Hebron area, Israeli bulldozers have been seen clearing land. The area being cleared is 3000 dunums and the court is looking into the ownership of the land at the same time as the bulldozers are clearing the land.

The military authorities had closed the area a few months ago.

Reports from the village say residents are planning to set up a committee to defend their land. (Translation: Al Talia December 16, 1982)

112 UNRWA EMPLOYEES STILL HELD; 183,544 REFUGEES AIDED

UNRWA today, the agency said, is now providing emergency relief services to 183,544 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. They are distributed as follows: Beirut 72,890 registered refugees; Sidon 51,488; Tyre 36,824; Beqa'a 5,343; Tripoli 2,385; Syria 8,154. The report also revealed that services are also being given to 6,460 unregistered refugees.

Some 160 UNRWA staff members in Lebanon have been detained by Israel since the invasion, the report said. Some have been released, and the number at present in detention is 112.

PLANS TO EVICT GAZANS FROM MOSHAV WORK CAMPS

The Israeli English language daily *Jerusalem Post* reported December 9, that the ministry of agriculture, and the border guards plan to evict Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip, who are working and staying at two agricultural settlements near Netanya, on the coastal plain.

The ministry's threat is based on the pretext that the workers are "foreigners who are not supposed to use state property." The two settlements refused to comply, and insisted on keeping the workers because they need them to cultivate the citrus crop. The workers concerned live in camps set up by the settlements, Meshmeret and Herut. The settlers are reported to have permitted the workers to use abandoned bus bodies to sleep in during the cultivation season. *The Jerusalem Post* quoted the settlers as saying that if the workers are evicted they would be forced to take the five-hour round trip between their homes and their work place, or stop working for the settlements.

The Israeli paper quoted the deputy secretary of the Moshav movement comparing the Arab workers camp to the ghetto-townships of South Africa. (Translation: Al Fajr, December 10, 1982, Jerusalem Post December 14, 1982)

National Unity Focus Of 15th PFLP Celebration

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and other Palestinian leaders attended a rally in Tishrin (October) Hall in Damascus December 10 on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). During the celebration several Palestinian leaders spoke about Palestinian national unity and the importance of a Palestinian independent decision.

Yasir Arafat, who came immediately from Aden to attend the rally, congratulated the PFLP for its role in strengthening national unity existing within the groups of the PLO.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), Fatah central committee member, stressed the importance of Arafat's attendance at the 15th anniversary celebrations of the PFLP and for its principal stands, during all stages of the struggle. Abu Iyad pointed out that all attempts to cause a split in Palestinian National Unity have failed. (Translated from Al Fajr, December 11, 1982)

On the same day, over 7000 Palestinian residents from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Galilee and the Triangle participated in another rally at Bethlehem University to celebrate the same occasion. The secretary of the Popular Palestinian Folklore Club spoke about the importance of Palestinian national unity in order to achieve the Palestinian objective of establishing the Palestinian independent state. Other speakers from the occupied territories, Galilee and Triangle in their speeches stressed that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of all Palestinians.

During the celebration, several kinds of Palestinian *dabkeh* dances were performed and patriotic songs and theatrical scenes recited. (Translated from Al Shaab, December 12, 1982).

ZIONIST CONGRESS COMES TO BLOWS

Unprecedented sharp differences and fist-fights between the delegates characterised the 30th Zionist Congress which opened December 7 and which was scheduled to last for nine days. The Congress, once the primary institution of the Zionist movement, is now little more than a talking shop, some delegates accuse. The latest Congress, now held every five years, has been enlivened by periodic punch-ups between delegates affiliated to the various Israeli political parties.

Officially immigration, settlement, the future of the Zionist movement and anti-semitism, for which the Congress was lengthened by three days, were the main subjects on the agenda.

The first-fights broke out on the Congress' first day when affiliates of the Labour Alignment parties and Peace Now members stood holding placards and chanting slogans in the middle of the plenum. According to reports from the Congress they were beaten and jostled by supporters of the extreme right-wing Herut Party. The demonstrators were protesting the militarisation of Israel and the latest excesses in Lebanon.

Sparks also flew, December 13, when a scuffle broke out involving delegates from Tami, a predominantly Oriental Jewish religious party and, once more, Herut. The clashes came during a session on immigration and absorption, when World Zionist Organisation immigration department chairman, Raphael Kotlowitz, began to speak about *aliya* (the Hebrew word for immigration) problems. During his speech a number of Tami delegates interrupted with cat-calls and declarations that not enough was being done to help Sephardi (Oriental) Jews in Israel. A few minutes later, physical violence erupted when Eli Artzi, a Tami delegate and director-general of the absorption ministry, criticised Jewish Agency officials for opposing trips he and absorption minister Aharon Uzan had made to France and Canada to encourage immigration. "For the first time, a minister and his director-general have taken the trouble to go abroad and visit Jews in their homes to talk about immigration," he said. A Tami man started arguing with a Herut delegate, kicking and insulting him; a number of delegates then started hitting each other.

Setting aside physical for verbal violence, delegates layed into each other towards the end of the congress over the wording of a number of resolutions. The one proposal presented by Tami that the Congress call for an end to "racism and ethnic discrimination in Israeli schools and in the political system" caused the main uproar. It was not even accepted by the plenum as valid to be voted on. Labour and Likud supporters clashed over resolutions about settlements.

Tami and Likud delegates push each other around during a melee at one session of the Zionist Congress, while an usher, with a white badge (center) tries to separate them.

Israeli Settlers Farm Arab-Owned Land

"Farmers from the village of Deir Jarar north of Ramallah have complained that settlers from the nearby Jewish settlement of Kochav Hashahar have begun cultivating and undertaking earthwork on land they claim is Arab-owned.

"The villagers, who claim that several hundred dunums are involved, have also alleged that a complaint to the local civil administration about the settlers' activities has produced no results. A civil administration official apparently visited the site late last week, but did not tell the villagers what he would do, and the settlers' work is continuing.

"A spokesman for the civil administration was not available for comment last night." (The Jerusalem Post December 15, 1982)

Young At Heart

by Israel Amrani

When a PLO representative arrived in Geneva for an official two-week visit, television cameras picked up something that was not included in the reception programme. The terminal area was placarded with bold-face posters showing a TWA airliner on fire. Beneath it the caption read "FLY PLO. Direct flight to heaven."

The PLO guest was clearly embarrassed when television reporters asked his opinion about the poster, which showed the hijacked airliner being blown up by PLO terrorists some 10 years earlier in Amman.

This theme was reinforced later by clearly provocative acts by Jewish students who awaited the representative everywhere he went. He finally cut his visit short after one week, complaining to the news media of public hostility and adding that the Swiss police could not guarantee his safety.

All the above was the result of the work of the World Zionist Organisation's Student Division, a small department in Jerusalem which employs only eight full-time staffers. The division, headed by Knesset Member Dror Zeigerman counts among its activities the task of explaining Israel to an increasingly hostile world.

The student division, set up after the 29th Zionist Congress, holds annual leadership-training courses, in which hundreds of student representatives receive one month of intensive training on how to manipulate the media, how to get on the offensive and how to get headlines.

These students — about 800 attended the course last summer — return to their communities and organise publicity for Israel.

After four years of work, the division boasts of ties with student organisations in some 60 countries.

Jerusalem Post supplement, November 1982

Ramallah-Al-Bireh Municipalities

Nine Months Under Israeli Military Majors

By Sami al-Aboudi

During the nine months they have been "in office," the military-appointed mayors of al-Bireh and Ramallah have not introduced any new development project, charge deposed city council members from the twin cities. "They have even frozen some of the projects we had been working on, such as the extension of al-Bireh's sewage system," said Ibrahim Tawil of al-Bireh, the first elected mayor to be summarily dismissed by the Israeli authorities last March.

The sewage system is only one of several basic improvement and development projects initiated by the elected municipalities before their sacking by the Israelis last spring. Some projects were halted completely, others were cut back and partial work is underway on a third type. The appointed mayors were reported to have even sold some of the equipment owned by the municipalities.

Outside al-Amari refugee camp's blockaded main street/SF

Al-Bireh Municipality Sewage System Projects

When Ibrahim Tawil was forced out of office, municipal workers were halfway through the first stage of constructing the sewage system. Tawil said that this stage included laying sewage pipes in all neighbourhoods in the south side of the city. Completion had been scheduled for July and work was proceeding on time until March. City engineers were drawing up plans for the second stage at the same time and blueprint work for the northern (industrial) area was also completed. The work is now five months behind schedule and the Israeli-appointed military mayor is still working on the first stage.

A cursory look along the Jerusalem-Ramallah road as it approaches the southern city limits of al-Bireh shows municipal workers busy digging up the street, preparing to install sewage pipes. The appearance is that the municipality is active and concerned, as a recent Israel TV feature tried to convince viewers. However, on side streets along both sides of the main road, things are different. Streets are open culverts and sewage pipes lay on the roadsides, but nobody is working nor has been for months.

A College Turned School?

The al-Bireh municipality completed the basic structure of a 5000-meter square school in 1981, at a cost of over JD250,000, using donations collected from the al-Bireh diaspora communities in the US and from Arab countries. The building was designed as a college branch for one of the West Bank universities and local educators say that the building is suitable only for that purpose. But the Israeli military mayor has announced plans to convert the college building into new quarters for the al-Hashimiyeh secondary school. In 1978, the school was operating at full capacity with an enrollment of 450 students.

However, following huge student demonstrations in March 1978 to protest the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon, the Israeli military authorities issued an order banning students from villages from studying in city schools. Village students scattered to neighbouring schools which had secondary classes, and the previously crowded al-Hashimiyeh school enrollment consequently dropped to nearly 200 students.

The New Al-Bireh Secondary School — construction was stopped when Israeli Mayor Maurice moved in'/SF

Students at the active al-Hashimiyeh school in the heart of al-Bireh claim that the Israelis purposely want to exile them to a remote area to lower the visibility, and influence, of student demonstrations on the public. The new school building is far from the urban center, and has no public transport near it. Al-Bireh educators also charge that it would be a waste of space, design and resources if it were used as a secondary school.

Al-Manara, A Landmark Gone

The landmark roundabout known to every resident as simply al-Manara no longer stands in its place on the Ramallah-al-Bireh dividing line. Originally a water fountain monument, the circle was famous for the three, stone-carved lions which guarded the middle of a small pool. Water flowed from the pool through the lions' trunks and sprayed from the mouths of the lions.

The Ramallah Manara, once a graceful circle of hand-chiselled stone and gardens — now is rubble and prefab concrete, courtesy of the new military-run municipality /JM

In 1966, a freak tornado destroyed the statues, and they were replaced by a simple stone column.

In recent years, the elected Ramallah and al-Bireh municipalities were jointly planning to renovate al-Manara and install the area's first traffic lights in order to organise the six streams of converging traffic. The blueprint, however, stayed in the closet after the Israeli authorites refused to approve the project.

Less than two months ago, the Israeli-appointed mayors gave orders to destroy the major circle and to build small islands instead. Many Ramallah and al-Bireh residents insist that renovation work could have been carried out without destroying the famous landmark, which had been preserved in the plans drawn up by the elected municipalities. The 'new' Israeli mayor is using Israeli-made prefabricated cement blocks to replace the old and beautiful hand-cut stone blocks lining the side walks, thus pouring money into Israeli factories, while denying it to local Palestinian stone-cutters.

The main north-south West Bank hiway — single line traffic for over one year/SF

Among other major projects, frozen by the Israeli authorities during the term of the elected municipalities, was al-Bireh's new town hall. Tawil explained that because of budget approval delays by the military governorate, sometimes lasting months, the municipality feels compelled, says Mayor Tawil, to start needed projects without the Israeli authorities approval.

In the case of the municipal building, the city council had prepared all the necessary blueprint work, and had the budget in hand for the project. Eight months after the municipality submitted its plans and heard no response, the council took a decision to begin construction work. The Israeli authorities later ordered the project suspended after the first floor had been laid.

Trenches, open for months, still await pipes/SF

Those renting municipal-owned offices or shops complain that there is no maintenance work being carried out in their buildings, other al-Bireh residents complain that their requests for construction permits are routed to the West Bank zoning department, rather than being approved locally by the municipality, which is the body legally responsible.

Tawil summed up the situation: "The Israeli authorities claimed, when they dismissed the legitimate mayors, that we were not doing our job. But the fact is that the projects we initiated, they are unable to finish."

THIS WEEK AT THE CENSOR

Number of original articles submitted	31
Number of articles totally censored	14
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	4
Number of articles partially censored	4
Number of articles returned	1
Number of articles passed	8